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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ZAIRIAN OFFICERS TROUBLED BY MILITARY REORGANIZATION

EMBASSY KINSHASA REPORTS THAT WHILE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RESHUFFLING OF MILITARY COMMANDERS APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT ON FIELD OPERATIONS, IT HAS PROVOKED STRAINS WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS. MUCH OF THE DISCONTENT STEMS FROM MOBUTU'S DECISION TO REPLACE THE POPULAR, BUT INEFFECTUAL AND CORRUPT, GENERAL BUMBA WITH BUMBA'S LONG-SECRET

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TERM ADVERSARY, GENERAL BABIA. ANOTHER, PERHAPS GREATER, CAUSE OF DISCONTENT IS BABIA'S ACQUIESCENCE TO FRENCH AND BELGIAN RECOMMENDATIONS TO PLACE BELGIAN OFFICERS IN DIVISIONAL OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY SLOTS.

AT THE MOMENT THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT

THIS DISAFFECTION HAS COALESCED TO THE POINT OF A MAJOR CONFRONTATION. NONETHELESS, THE INTERNECINE RIVALRY BETWEEN BUMBA AND BABIA, CONTINUED FACTIONAL AND TRIBAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE MILITARY AND THE ARRESTS OF CERTAIN OFFICERS DURING THE RESHUFFLING PROCESS MAY AFFECT THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR AND LEAD TO IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. (SECRET) KINSHASA 3550, 4/15.

2. JAPAN AND THE PRC AGREE TO ECONOMIC PACT

USLO PEKING REPORTS THAT JAPAN AND THE PRC HAVE REACHED A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT CALLING FOR JAPAN TO EXPORT STEEL AND "COMPLETE SETS OF EQUIPMENT" IN RETURN FOR CHINESE OIL AND COAL. ACCORDING TO A JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIAL:

--CHINA WILL SELL JAPAN UP TO 15 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL AND FIVE MILLION TONS OF COAL PER YEAR.

--JAPANESE EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED PRIMARILY TO HELP THE PRC EXPLOIT AND EXPORT ITS OIL AND COAL RESOURCES.

--THE AGREEMENT WILL RUN FROM FIVE TO TEN YEARS WITH JAPAN PROVIDING SOME CREDIT THROUGH DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

LIAISON OFFICE COMMENT: THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL NOT BE SIGNED UNTIL THE JAPANESE CONCLUDE SUBCONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS, IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PRC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
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MENT. IT WILL ALSO HELP PERPETUATE JAPAN'S DOMINANT POSITION IN CHINESE FOREIGN TRADE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TEN YEARS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 731, 4/15.
CHRISTOPHER

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